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PATENT

#8A
JL
1/22/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/777,044
Applicant : Yasufumi Ichikawa
Filed : February 5, 2001
TC/AU : 2684
Examiner: Tanmay S. Lele
Docket No. : 33241
Customer No.: 116

Confirmation No. : 8696

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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JAN 16 2004

Technology Center 2600

AMENDMENT "A"

Sir:

The three month response period to the Office action of September 8, 2003 expired on December 8, 2003. Applicant's attorney hereby petitions and requests a one (1) month extension of time to extend the response period from December 8, 2003 through January 8, 2004. A check in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed to cover the extension of time fee.

In response to the Office action of September 8, 2003, paper no. 7, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

01/14/2004 MBELETE1 00000093 09777044
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I hereby certify that the attached correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Robert F. Bodie
Name of Depositor for Applicant(s)

January 8, 2004
Date

Signature of Depositor